As mentioned in the introduction, Superfund distinguishes between short-term and long-term responses to threats posed by hazardous substances. Long-term responses, called remedial actions, involve complex and highly contaminated sites that often require several years to fully study the problem, develop a permanent remedy, and clean up the hazardous waste. Long-term responses are required at almost all sites on the NPL. This section focuses on such sites.

As sites are identified, cleaned and completed, potential reuse is always considered. Region III has one of the most aggressive programs in the nation to promote reuse of sites by protecting prospective purchasers, lenders and property owners from Superfund liability. Region III has entered into 25 Prospective Purchaser Agreements (PPAs), assuring these buyers will not be responsible for cleaning sites where they did not contribute to the contamination.

Superfund cleanups are complex projects that require the concerted efforts of EPA, state and local partners, community members and parties responsible for the contamination of the sites. It is for these reasons that we're particularly proud of the diversity of success stories the following sites represent. From cleanup milestones to reuse to innovative technologies, these sites highlight the Superfund success story in the West Virginia.

As a result of decades of processing crude tar wastes and salvage operations, soil and groundwater at the Big John's Salvage-Hoult Road Site was severely contaminated. After recently placing the site on the NPL, Region III plans to use a two-step approach to cleaning up this site. First, we

Vienna PCE Site, Vienna: Added to the National Priorities List last year.

Vienna PCE Site: Today, a complex groundwater treatment plan is being installed.

Many of our successes are in thanks to EPA's flexibility. Region III has changed 52 cleanup decisions when advancements in technology can assure an alternate safe and effective cleanup. The cost savings in the Mid-Atlantic states are tremendous, totaling about $180 million so far.

Nationwide, EPA has completed cleanup construction at 683 sites on the National Priorities List, and with appropriate funding is committed to cleaning 170 more by 2002.

In the Mid-Atlantic states, we're focused on post-construction activities as well, conducting regular five-year reviews on approximately 150 sites to ensure the remedies remain protective and monitoring all sites where long-term groundwater cleanup is being performed.

Sharon Steel (Fairmont Coke Works) Site: Former coke ovens were demolished last year, allowing for speedier cleanup. The brick rubble (bottom photo) from these ovens will be reused on site.

intend to work closely with the responsible parties to quickly address immediate threats. EPA will then focus on a long-term cleanup plan.

After residents lost nearly half of their municipal drinking water wells to contamination, the Vienna PCE Site was added to the NPL last year. Immediate steps were taken to provide local residents with new supply wells, and a Superfund study is about to begin to address the groundwater contamination.

While projects aimed at cleaning up extensive groundwater contamination are often components of successful Superfund strategies, selecting remedies that pave the way for site reuse is truly the ultimate success story.

Six decades of industrial activity and waste disposal left the Fairmont Coke Works Site  a contaminated blight to the local community. That was the past. Today, this former eyesore holds the distinction of being the first Superfund site in the nation to be selected as a Project XL (eXcellence and Leadership) pilot. Project XL is a national initiative that encourages federal, state, and local partnerships with EPA to test innovative environmental management strategies that protect human health.

Today, abandoned buildings have been demolished, clearing the way for upcoming cleanup activities. The next step? Consolidating landfilled material to pave the way for the productive reuse of this ideally-located property. Working with EPA and WVDEP, Exxon has cut down on cleanup time frames with a combination of regulatory flexibility and dedicated stakeholder involvement. Through Project XL, this Superfund site illustrates a redevelopment story in which everyone wins. For more information, check out: www.epa.gov/ProjectXL.